REMARKS:

The present amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay.

1. A prior claim acknowledgment is requested here since applicant's records show that the priority document has been submitted.

2. A Substitute Specification providing section headings, replacing reference to the claims by text derived therefrom and eliminating minor idiomatic informalities has been supplied.

The Substitute Specification does not contain any new matter and is accompanied by a marked-up version showing the changes made.

3. Claims 1-15 have been canceled and new claims 17-27 have been added. The new claims are free from the grounds which led to the claim objections and the rejection of claim 15 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

4. The new claims are directed to a pipe assembly comprising a pipe (2) having an internal coating (5) which is formed with a housing to receive the tubular first portion (6) of a fitting (1) but in which, as can readily be seen in FIGS. 1 and 3-

5, there is an axial prolongation of the internal coating (5) which surrounds the tubular first portion (6) and runs to the end face of the pipe.

This distinction is pointed out at this stage since it eliminates the grounds of rejection under 35 USC 102. A similar limitation is present in method claim 26, and all other claims include that limitation by reference.

The rejection under 35 USC 102(b) on ANDRONACO (C) does not show a recess running to the end of the pipe and containing the first portion of the fitting in a flush relationship as a comparison of FIGS. 2 and 3 of that reference with FIG. 1, for example, of the present case, will show.

The YAKEY (B) reference cited under 35 USC 102 does not have the flush relationship either nor does it provide the annular housing as currently recited.

The rejection on EASTMAN (A) under 35 USC 102(b) likewise must fail because EASTMAN does not show the prolongation as claimed but rather an offset arrangement.

The EASTMAN reference has been evaluated by applicant who has commented on that reference as follows:

"The present invention discloses a pipe fitting 1 for a multilayer pipe 2 wherein the inner surface of the coating 5 of the pipe 2 is aligned with the inner surface 9 of the fitting 1. This avoids a reduction of the area for the passage for the fluid through the fitting.

For use, the pipe 2 is cut to a desired length and subsequently an internal portion of the thickness of the coating 5 of the pipe 2 is removed in order to obtain the housing 7 for the fitting 1.

This operation affects only the coating 5, and it is evident that the end portion A of coating 5 where the housing 7 is made is aligned with the longitudinal prolongation of the remaining portion B of the coating 5.

Among the references cited by the Examiner, only EASTMAN, Figures 1 and 5, discloses a multilayer pipe 5 wherein the inner surface of the coating 24 of the pipe 5 is aligned with the inner surface 10 of the fitting 7.

But in order to do so, in EASTMAN the end portion of coating 24 where the fitting 7 is fitting is provided with an offset relationship with respect to the remaining portion D of the coating 24.

Furthermore, in order to do so, the structure of the layer 25 adjacent to coating 24 too is affected, as it is provided a reduction in its thickness in order to receive the end portion of the coating 24.

As the end portion of the coating 24 and of the adjacent layer 25 seem to have to be preformed, the length of the tube 5 has to be prefixed and cannot be freely chosen."

The combination of EASTMAN with CHISNELL et al would not lead to modification of EASTMAN which would eliminate that offset. Accordingly claims 16-27 are deemed to be allowable and an early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures: Substitute Specification
Marked-up version of the Specification
FIG. 1 of EASTMAN
FIG. 1
Rewritten Abstract